



properties. EPA ensures that cleanup actions reflect cost-effective technological advances. Updating remedies at Superfund toxic emissions by 90%. Project XL Initiative launched: companies, facilities, states and localities develop innovative ways to

# HEALTHY *The Responsibility of All Nations* PLANET

**T**hreats to clean air, clean land, and clean water recognize no national borders or continental divides. They are global problems, ultimately requiring solutions that span oceans and continents. Planet Earth is, after all, a large ecosystem.

This is especially evident with global warming and climate change. Look at what has happened in the past 100 years. The average temperature worldwide has increased one degree Fahrenheit; the polar ice caps are melting and Glacier National Park, Montana has lost 70 percent of some of its glaciers. Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is at all-time record levels, the highest in the last 160,000 years. Sea level has risen, and is projected to rise from six to 37 inches, permanently flooding many coastal areas in the next century.

The 11 hottest years on record have occurred in the past 13 years. Last year was the hottest since recordkeeping began 100 years ago. Throughout the world, extreme and erratic weather has caused violent hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, drought, fire, ice, and electrical storms. Catastrophic wildfires in Florida, Mexico, Brazil and Indonesia only made

matters worse by releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere from burning forests.

To slow climate change, all nations must reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. These gases cause acid rain and smog, and trap the sun's heat close to the earth's surface. As global temperatures rise, the planet drifts closer to a greenhouse effect.

Recognizing that the United States is the world's largest energy consumer and emits 22 percent of all carbon dioxide, Vice President Gore negotiated the global warming treaty in Kyoto, Japan. All developed nations agreed to reduce greenhouse gases during the next decade. The treaty still needs to be approved by the U.S. senate.

### ***Helping Other Countries***

Americans know that industrialized nations can help emerging Third World nations prevent many pollution problems that industrialized nations already have solved.

EPA actively assists countries all over the world. Since 1990, EPA has conducted more than 70 environmental projects abroad. This includes sharing expertise and training in assessing



*As businesses and municipalities throughout the world employ innovative programs to reduce their energy use, they save money and prevent pollution.*

environmental impacts, managing air quality, and controlling hazardous waste and municipal trash.

The result — cleaner air, cleaner water, cleaner land, sustainable waste management plans and technology that saves energy and keeps on paying dividends years into the future.

For example, the mid-Atlantic region has just completed a comprehensive 10-year program in Poland that includes helping that nation develop environmental policy and enforcement.

The region is also helping environmental partners in South Africa, China and Chinese Taipei. This year a new program was launched in Ghana and training has been provided

in Jordan and Israel. The expenses of these initiatives are borne by the recipient countries or international organizations.

### **Preventing Pollution**

EPA has introduced and adapted successful U.S. programs to other countries. Our WasteWiSe program encourages business and industry to reduce solid waste through prevention, reuse and recycling, and buying or manufacturing products with recycled content. In the Energy Star Building™ program, organizations upgrade their buildings with energy-efficient lighting. In our region alone, 506 participants are saving \$32 million in energy costs, and achieving pollution reductions that would equate to removing 75,000 automobiles from highways annually and planting

100,000 acres of trees. Other programs include: Project XL which allows companies to test alternative approaches that achieve cleaner and cheaper environmental results than would be realized under existing requirement; AgSTAR which promotes cost-effective methods for reducing methane emissions at dairy and swine operations through improved manure management; and Pesticide Environmental Stewardship which promotes integrated pest management and reduces pesticide risk in agriculture and nonagricultural settings.

### **The value of safe drinking water**

Each year, 5.3 million people die world-wide from diseases caused by unsafe water, according to a study released in March by the United Nations. A child dies every 8 seconds from water-related disease, and 80 percent of diseases in the developing world are linked to contaminated water, according to U.N. Environment Program statistics.

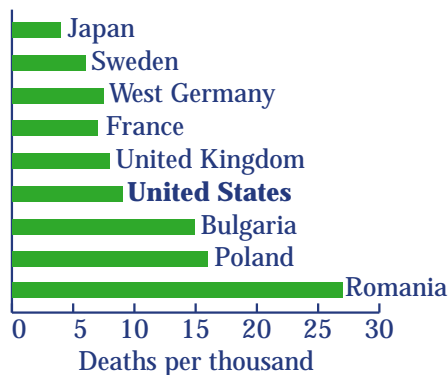


Courtesy of S. C. Delaney/EPA

suppliers tell customers what's in their water, where it comes from and how it meets water quality standards. Sellers and Shope Landfill, Pa., is the 400th Superfund construction completion in the nation. The Food Quality Protection Act requires



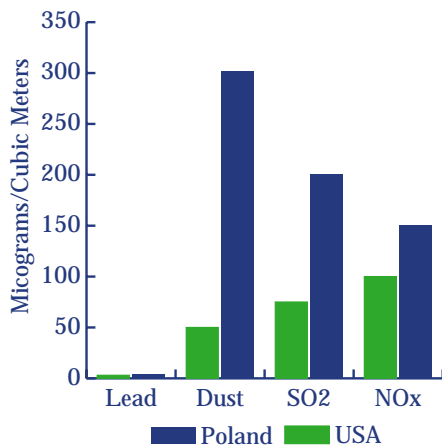
## Infant Mortality Rate



\*Data taken from Population Reference Bureau, Inc.

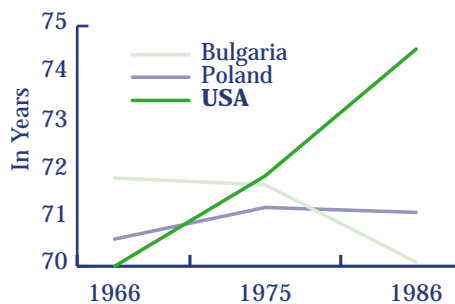
*Infant mortality rates are significantly lower in industrial countries where pollution has been effectively managed.*

## Air Pollution



*The protected American environment (above) helps to prolong life (below).*

## Life Expectancy USA vs. Poland & Bulgaria



## Protecting Our Communities

### Emergency Response

Working with state and local governments, the agency protects citizens, businesses, and the health of the environment in emergency situations. Since its inception, the region has cleaned 107 million cubic yards of solid hazardous waste and 5 billion gallons of liquid, and removed more than 13,000 drums and tanks from various sites.

### Responding to the Public's Right-to-Know

Citizens can be informed about chemicals in their community through the Toxics Release Inventory. Updated annually, the TRI reports toxic chemical pollution released into the environment by businesses throughout the country. It is available on the internet at [www.epa.gov/enviro](http://www.epa.gov/enviro) or at [www.epa.gov/opptintr/tri](http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/tri). With TRI data the public, state and local government, and EPA can analyze industries' progress toward reducing pollution and make informed decisions. An integral part of community life, citizens discover the types and amounts of toxic chemicals released in or near their neighborhoods.

### Brownfields

In addition to the Superfund program, recycling of land and buildings also is achieved through the brownfields program. Through its innovative assessment pilots, EPA awards \$200,000 grants to qualified

communities to assess, clean and reuse abandoned and mildly contaminated properties.

The Cape Charles Sustainable Technology Park in Virginia leveraged \$4.5 million in federal funds, including a grant from the mid-Atlantic region, to develop the nation's first eco-industrial park that emphasizes zero emissions, resource efficiency and pollution prevention.

The mid-Atlantic region created the popular Brownfields Yellow Pages, used by municipalities as a valuable redevelopment tool. The Yellow Pages highlight EPA's partnership with other federal agencies to help communities in their redevelopment efforts.



Courtesy of Roy Seneca

Urban livability is a top priority for EPA. Philadelphia Mayor John F. Street and EPA Regional Administrator Bradley M. Campbell at the signing of a new partnership to help Philadelphia residents make their neighborhoods cleaner and safer.